AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend claims 1 and 5, cancel claims 9 - 12, and add new claims 13 - 23. This listing of the claims supersedes all previous listings.

1. (Currently Amended) An interface for communicating between electronic components having multiple connection points, said interface comprising:

a circuit for a state machine to perform as a target and an initiator of a communication; and

a plurality of pins, connected to the circuit, said plurality of pins corresponding to a set of target signals handling communication involving the component as a target and a set of initiator signals handling communication involving the component as an initiator~~.~~

wherein said initiator signal is consistent with a virtual component interface protocol.

2. (Original) The interface of claim 1, wherein each of the plurality of pins are unidirectional and comprise at least one input pin and at least one output pin.

3. (Original) The interface of claim 2, wherein the number of input pins is equal to the number of output pins.

4. (Original) The interface of claim 3, wherein the set of target signals is symmetric with the set of initiator signals.

5. (Currently Amended) An electronic component comprising:

a circuit for a state machine to perform as a target and an initiator of a communication; and

a plurality of pins, connected to the circuit, said plurality of pins corresponding to a set of target signals handling communication involving the component as a target and a set of initiator signals handling communication involving the component as an initiator~~.~~

wherein said initiator signal is consistent with a virtual component interface protocol.

6. (Original) The electronic component of claim 5, wherein each of the plurality of pins are unidirectional and comprise at least one input pin and at least one output pin.

7. (Original) The electronic component of claim 6, wherein the number of input pins is equal to the number of output pins.

8. (Original) The electronic component of claim 7, wherein the set of target signals is symmetric with the set of initiator signals.

9 - 12. (Canceled).

13. (New) A method for communicating between electrical components, comprising:

initiating a first signal at a circuit, wherein said first signal conforms with a virtual component interface protocol; and

receiving a second signal at said circuit.

14. (New) The method of claim 13 wherein said second signal conforms to a virtual component interface protocol.

15. (New) The method of claim 13 wherein said step of initiating a first signal comprises transmitting said first signal via at least one of a first set of pins.

16. (New) The method of claim 15 wherein said step of receiving a second signal comprises receiving said second signal at least one of a second set of pins.

17. (New) The method of claim 16 wherein the first set of pins is equal to the second set of pins.

18. (New) The method of claim 13 wherein said first signal is symmetric with said second signal.

19. (New) The method of claim 13 further comprising converting said second signal from a predecessor signal format to create a converted signal, such that said converted signal conforms with a virtual component interface protocol.

20. (New) The method of claim 13 further comprising converting said second signal to a predetermined format.

21. (New) The method of claim 20 further comprising transmitting said converted second signal from said circuit.

22. (New) The method of claim 14 further comprising converting said first signal to a predetermined format.

23. (New) The method of claim 22 further comprising transmitting said converted first signal from said circuit.